VLR SAFETY TAILGATE TALK

March 2017

Subject: ***High Voltage Lines***

Date: _____

Location (garage, mm, etc…):

Instructions:

Safety Coordinators & Supervisors should use this Tailgate Talk as a guide for discussion during their safety meetings. The primary purpose of the safety meetings is to give crews the opportunity to discuss any safety related concerns they may have.

Once the meeting has concluded, the Presenter should have each employee sign this form and include their Employee ID# in the spaces below.

TGT Presenter: _____

Name	Employee
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Electricity jumps. Always keep yourself and your equipment a safe distance from high voltage lines. Even low voltage can injure or kill you, but today we'll be talking about high voltage. About 700 U.S. workers are killed by electricity each year, many because they got too close to a high voltage line. We'll explain some steps to take if someone gets an electric shock. However, even the best emergency care can't always save a life. It's best not to get too close to electricity in the first place.

Electricity can be dangerous at any voltage, but what do we mean by high voltage electricity?

- Over 600 volts

How far away should you stay from an overhead high voltage line?

- People should stay a minimum of 10 feet away, depending on the voltage. The higher the voltage, the farther electricity can jump. No part of your body should come within this minimum clearance distance.
- Most tools, equipment, and machinery should also stay minimum of 10 feet away.
- Lifting and hoisting machinery (like cranes) should stay between 10 and 42 feet away from the line, depending on the voltage.
- An electric line might move (due to strain on the supporting structures, etc.). Your clearance distance must also allow for this possible movement.

What if you have to work within the minimum clearance distance?

- Make sure the electric line is de-energized.
- Consider any line to be live unless:
    1. The owner or operator of the line verifies that it is de-energized.
    2. The line is visibly grounded at the work site.

Keep all tools and equipment away from high voltage lines. You can get a serious shock if anything you're using or carrying accidentally contacts a line.

Tools and equipment that you should be especially careful with:

- Metal ladders, long pipes, tree trimming equipment cranes.
- Scaffolds, antennas, extension rollers used in painting, lifting equipment.
- Watch clearance whether you're using the equipment, transporting it or storing.,
- Never use tools or equipment above a high voltage line regardless of the distance.

According to OSHA, there should be two signs on all cranes, derricks, power shovels, pile drivers, and similar machinery, warning about the clearance distance from high voltage lines. What information is on these signs?

They say operators should keep this equipment at least 10 feet from high voltage lines that carry 50,000 volts or less. The clearance distance is more if the line carries higher voltage. These signs are required. Let your supervisor know it they're not there.

If you're electrical resistance is low when you get a shock, more electricity will flow through your body, usually causing more injury. Some things that can lower your resistance are:

- Working in a wet or damp location.
- Using wet tools.
- Sweating.
- Working in contact with good grounding materials like metal pipes, tanks, or boilers.

Kinds of injuries you can get from a high voltage electric shock:

- High voltage can stop your heart or your breathing.
- It can also cause fibrillation, a fast, irregular heartbeat.
- You can get a serious burn, external or internal.
- You can fall off a ladder or scaffold and get injured.
- Even if you're not on a ladder or scaffold, high voltage can throw you causing fractures or broken bones.

What to do if someone gets an electric shock:

Don't touch the person until power has been disconnected.

Call 9-1-1.

Notify the first aid provider, clinic, or supervisor. Describe the extent of injuries and provide your location.

Give first aid or CPR if necessary, but only if you know what you are doing.

Keep people out of the area.

Calm and reassure the injured person. Don't move them until trained help arrives.

Speed is critical. The highest success rate is when people are given CPR within 4 minutes and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) within 8 minutes.